

**May 2020**

This past Sunday was Divine Mercy Sunday. The second reading (1 Peter 1:3-9) was especially appropriate for our lives over the past weeks. It was about faith that is tested, but faith which finds itself stronger because of the tests that have challenged it. St. Peter knew that we can either grow through adverse circumstances, or just turn away from them and never really move on. It's not only faith, but all life that is subject to being tested by changes and circumstances. Long ago I was taught that what I do with those difficult moments would have a direct bearing on my future and my happiness. If I refuse to give in to hopelessness, I will find a vision that will keep me safe on the journey ahead. I also learned that moving forward is the only real path to salvation. If I hold on to the past (which is so often much better in recollection than it ever was in reality) I will simply stand still. To believe in God, and to believe in ourselves will always help us see the vision that St. Peter's words foretold. Those words promise us of a better world today and eternal happiness forever.

I heard a phrase the other day that caught me off guard. The person said, the doors of the buildings may be closed for now, but the CHURCH is still open, and we are the Body of Christ, the Church. I had to ask myself, "Am I really open to what God is calling me to do right now, or have I shut down?" I confess that the jury is still out on the answer to that one. I hope I am a better, more thoughtful and more reflective person when this is all over. This current time of crisis will be over one day soon, and we need to believe now more than ever that God has been and is always on our side through it all.

As we move ahead together, please remember that Fr. Thomas and I are keeping you all in prayer as we celebrate our masses privately and remember the special needs of every one of you. Thanks also to many of you who have been able to join us through the YouTube celebrations. For all those who don't have computer access, there are many opportunities to be a part of mass on various television and radio outlets.

**We want to extend a special thank you to all...**

***-who have continued with their financial support of the parish. We are doing our best to conserve our resources, and you have made that task less difficult through your help.***

***-who have made a special contribution to the Festival deferment fund.***

***-who have made contributions to our Lenten Giving Project, "Congo Helping Hands". Even though the collection was interrupted by the corona virus closings, you have contributed over \$20,000.00 to their efforts, and there is much good news to report as the projects mentioned in the talks are well under way to completion.***

Please stay safe and stay healthy until we can meet once again around the table of the Lord. We hope that this time apart will strengthen our bond as a parish community. May our Mother of Perpetual Help continue to pray for us and with us as we look to the future renewed in Hope, rejoicing in what we have been given and in what we have been invited to receive.

Blessings to all of you! Fr. Jeff and Fr. Thomas